

# Karen Mezich

Piano, Voice & Guitar Instruction

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## Profile

As a business creative, the arts have always been the center of my career. I like to lift up the arts in our community. For myself, being involved with the arts has allowed me to go places that I never dreamed of. I've been an entrepreneur for over 20 years. I owned and operated a music school in both Lake Villa, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Searching for a warmer climate, I recently moved to Scottsdale, Arizona. I've spent the past 20 years involved with music education. Over the years, I have been a house manager and general manager with several notable arts organizations.

## Education

BME K-12 Choral, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire

Bachelor of Music Education

## Employment History

President, Conservatory of Music and Arts 2000-2019

In 2000, I established the Lake County Music Center for the Arts so local teachers could teach music lessons in my community. The school grew to 12 instructors. The teachers all degreed in their instruments. Not only did they instruct, but they were also active performers. They have performed with prestigious ensembles such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera, Ravinia, Toured with Disney's Lion King, Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, and Bel Canto Chorus. Our teachers also performed throughout the area.

I am very proud that over the past 20 years, 3450 students, received excellent instruction. Students of all ages started their instructions with us. Our forte is teaching young students the technical skills needed to play with precision and musicality to make their instruments sing. But most importantly, our teachers' passion is to develop a student's lifelong enjoyment of the arts.

From beginners to advanced students, our teachers worked with all levels of experience. Many students searched out our teachers to assist them with contest music and college auditions. We worked with those students in preparation for their performance. In 2018, Lake County Music Center for the Arts changed to the Conservatory of Music and Arts. I also expanded in offering private and group art instruction. Over the years, I have taught private and group lessons. I've taught at my school, in home lessons, through part districts, at a variety of high schools and on ZOOM. I provide the students with the proper technique and musicality so they can achieve their goals. It has brought me such joy to see students succeed in their discipline. It has truly been an honor to work with so many wonderful students in my career.

## **General Manager, Bel Canto Chorus, Milwaukee 1996-1998**

I was a member of the chorus for many years. For two seasons, I oversaw the daily business operations. Communicated regularly with the board and section leaders. Prepared reports, playbills and much, much more. During my tenure we toured Italy; participated in the Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds with Gian Carlo Menotti; and had the privilege of singing in a small ensemble with one of the greatest vocalists of our time; Luciano Pavarotti.

## **House Manager, Next Act**

Prepared the front of the house; oversaw the ushers; handled the concessions during intermission; Made sure the performance started on time.

## **President, Greater Lindenhurst-Lake Villa Fine Arts Council, Lindenhurst**

Seeing a need for more arts in my community, I approached the local chamber to create an arts council. I established the Greater Lindenhurst-Lake Villa Fine Arts Council with the Lindenhurst-Lake Villa Chamber of Commerce. I was the first president of the board and participated in two seasons. I was involved with Civil War Reenactment, two art festivals and one concert series.

## **Empowering Women Entrepreneurs', Boldheart**

Organization that supports women entrepreneurs in business. Offering women techniques in expanding their client-base through social media and business networking. It offered a wonderful support system along with accountability.

## **Operational Guide for Music Schools, Music Academy Success System**

I am always gathering information on how other businesses run their fine arts program. It is a blueprint for operating a music academy. Offered information on summer student retention, how to handle make-up lessons, social media, and former student marketing.

## **Award**

### **Athena Award, Greater Lindenhurst-Lake Villa Chamber of Commerce**

Early 2000, nominated for the Athena award for my contribution to the community in the arts in the Greater Lindenhurst-Lake Villa Area, in Illinois.